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Date: December 11, 2003

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Client Matter#: 20866-12 (KYA-04.01)

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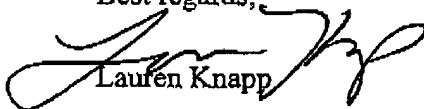
Re: U.S. Patent Application No: 09/455,952
Entitled: *A Novel Long-term Three-dimensional Tissue Culture System*
Filed: December 7, 1999; By: Michalopoulos
Examiner: Naff, D.; Group Art Unit: 1651

Dear Mr. Naff:

To expedite the prosecution of this application, we thought it might be useful to provide you with a draft Response and Amendment. In the attached draft we have attempted to incorporate the amendments that you kindly suggested. We have discussed the application with our academic client and it would like to resolve any outstanding issues at this stage if that is possible. Please let us know if you prefer that we submit these amendments as a formal submission in lieu of providing you with this draft amendment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us with comments or questions.

Best regards,


Lauren Knapp

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DRAFT**EXPEDITED AFTER
FINAL PRACTICE****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

George Michalopoulos

Application No: 09/455,952

Filed: December 7, 1999

For: *A Novel Long-term Three-dimensional
Tissue Culture System*

Examiner: Naff, David M.

Art Unit: 1651

Attorney Document No.: KYA-004.01

(20866-12)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on: December 22, 2003.

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Response and Amendment

Dear Examiner Naff:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on September 22, 2003 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully submit this Response and Amendment. Please amend the claims of the subject application as indicated herein. A Notice of Appeal is filed concurrently herewith. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account Number 06-1448, Reference KYA-004.01.